[0122] When the sheathed indwelling catheter assembly (e.g., assembly **100***a-j*) is included as part of the catheterization kit **70**, catheterization kit **70** is preferably employed as follows: After opening the sanitary wrapper **82**, the nurse dons the gloves **80** and places the fenestrated drape, if provided, around the patient's genitalia. The packet **79** containing the antiseptic swabs is opened and the urethral area around the urethral opening is cleansed using the antiseptic swabs. Then an embodiment of the sheathed indwelling catheter assembly of the present invention (e.g., **100***a*, **100***b*, **100***c*) may be inserted into the patient's urethra and advanced to the patient's urinary bladder in the manner previously described in reference to FIGS. **1**A-**1**C, **2**A-**2**C, or **3**A-**3**C.

[0123] When the catheter tip enters the patient's bladder a sufficient distance to commence optimal draining of accumulated urine (e.g., 1 cm), further insertion ceases. At about the same time, the nurse may inject fluid through port bore **19** of takeoff port **17** to inflate expander **15**, thereby maintaining indwelling catheter **10** in the appropriate position for extended catheterization. Further, catheter **10** may be coupled to the patient by applying adhesive pad **81** to the patient and coupling catheter **10** to the adhesive pad. For example, if adhesive pad **81** is similar to a Statlock® type adhesive pad, the adhesive pad **81** may be adhered to the patient and catheter **10** may be coupled to adhesive pad **81** by a removable, releasable, and replaceable locking device provided in the pad.

[0124] Prior to commencement of urine drainage, the distal end **12** is coupled to tray **71** so that urine can drain into tray **71** while preventing catheter **10** from contacting the collected urine. Alternatively, any other suitable urine receptacle may be used instead of the disposable tray **71** provided as part of the kit. In some embodiments, a urine receptacle or bag may already be integral with or otherwise attached to distal end **12**.

[0125] After commencement of urine flow, outlet **18** of catheter **10** may be directed briefly into the specimen container **78**, to collect a sterile specimen, if needed. Upon completion of urine evacuation, catheter **10** may be maintained in proper position within the patient for long-term catheterization. In particular, indwelling catheter assembly **72** may be maintained in proper position within the patient for an extended period of time by expander **15** and fixation tab **60**. The entire catheterization process can usually be accomplished by a nurse in a relatively short period of time, maintaining sterile technique throughout the procedure. Once the catheterization is no longer necessary, expander **15** may be deflated and catheter **10** may be simply withdrawn from the urethra and disposed. If desired, the catheter may be retracted into the sheath prior to disposal

[0126] The disclosed catheterization kit **70** and simplified procedure offers a way to simplify and streamline long-term or extended catheterization procedures without compromising sterile technique. Every item that the new kit **70** eliminates from the customary indwelling catheterization setup will decrease the number of procedural steps, and also reduces the amount of nursing time needed. Fewer steps also reduces the patient's risk for urinary tract infection, and decreases inconvenience for the patient. Kit **70** is intended to substantially reduce nursing time required to carry out an indwelling catheterization procedure.

[0127] The embodiments described herein are intended to offer the potential to improve the convenience and sterility desirable for catheterization procedures. Some embodiments are designed to deter contamination of an indwelling catheter, while streamlining the procedures required to employ the indwelling catheter. By deterring contamination of the indwelling catheter, embodiments of the present invention reduce the potential for urinary tract infections. Further, by streamlining the indwelling catheterization procedure, the embodiments disclosed herein are intended to reduce the time required to employ an indwelling catheter while maintaining a sterile environment.

[0128] The disclosures of all patents, patent applications, and publications cited herein are hereby incorporated herein by reference in their entirety, to the extent that they provide exemplary, procedural, or other details supplementary to those set forth herein. Further, the discussion of a reference in this disclosure is not an admission that it is prior art to the present invention, especially any reference that may have a publication date after the priority date of this application.

[0129] The foregoing disclosure of the exemplary embodiments of the present invention has been presented for purposes of illustration and description. It is not intended to be exhaustive or to limit the invention to the precise forms disclosed. Many variations and modifications of the embodiments described herein will be apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art in light of the above disclosure. The scope of the invention is to be defined only by the claims appended hereto, and by their equivalents.

[0130] Further, in describing representative embodiments of the present invention, the specification may have presented the method and/or process of the present invention as a particular sequence of steps. However, to the extent that the method or process does not rely on the particular order of steps set forth herein, the method or process should not be limited to the particular sequence of steps described. As one of ordinary skill in the art would appreciate, other sequences of steps may be possible. Therefore, the particular order of the steps set forth in the specification should not be construed as limitations on the claims. In addition, the claims directed to the method and/or process of the present invention should not be limited to the performance of their steps in the order written, and one skilled in the art can readily appreciate that the sequences may be varied and still remain within the spirit and scope of the present invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A indwelling urinary catheter assembly comprising:

an indwelling catheter comprising a first end having a urine inlet, a second end having a urine outlet, a takeoff port having a port bore, an expander, and a urethra insertable portion;

wherein the urine inlet and urine outlet are in fluid communication with one another and wherein the port bore and the expander are in fluid communication with one another;

a pliable sheath comprising a lumen, wherein the sheath encloses at least a portion of the insertable portion.

2. The indwelling catheter assembly of claim 1, further comprising an insertion stop location, wherein the sheath further comprises a terminus coupled to the catheter at a location between the insertion stop location and the takeoff port.

3. The indwelling catheter assembly of claim 2, wherein the terminus sealingly engages the catheter at an attachment point disposed between the insertion stop location and the takeoff port.